

### REMARKS

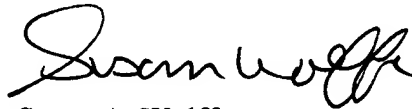
Claim 27 stands rejected under obviousness double patenting over U.S. Patent 6,150,057. Attached hereto is a Terminal Disclaimer signed by Martin G. Linihan, Attorney of Record. Withdrawal of the instant rejection is requested.

Claims 21-26 stand rejected over Berberick, U.S. Patent 5,154,992 (interfering subject matter). Claims 21-26 are canceled herein without prejudice and applicants reserve the right to file these claims in a continuation application. Applicants are entitled to their earliest filing date and reserve the right to provoke an interference in a continuation application.

### CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment and remarks, withdrawal of the rejections and indication that the claims are allowable is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan A. Wolffe  
Reg. No. 33,568

Date: 11/12/03

Banner & Witcoff, LTD.  
Eleventh Floor  
1001 G Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20001-4597  
(202) 508-9100